

Frederick County Ethics Commission
Minutes for the Public Meeting of Wednesday, August 19, 2009

Present: Andrew T. Jones, Chairman
Karl W. Bickel, Commission Member
E. Donald Foster, Alternate Commission Member
Linda B. Thall, Senior Assistant County Attorney

Absent: Paula C. Bell, Commission Member

The Frederick County Ethics Commission met at 7:10 p.m. on August 19, 2009, at the Office of the County Attorney on the 2nd floor of Winchester Hall, 12 East Church Street, Frederick, Maryland 21701.

Approval of the minutes – The Commission considered the minutes from its July 8, 2009 meeting.

MOTION: Mr. Bickel made a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Foster seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

Request for an Advisory Opinion – The Commission met with a County employee who requested an Advisory Opinion regarding whether a proposed business venture would present a conflict of interest. After obtaining information from the employee, the employee left the meeting. The Commission members then discussed the request. The members directed the Senior Assistant County Attorney to draft an Advisory Opinion conveying the Commission's approval of the business venture, with limitations. Those limitations on the outside venture include: (1) that the employee do no business in Frederick County, (2) that the employee not work for any person or entity met through his County position, (3) that the employee not perform work for an person or entity that does business in Frederick County, (4) that the employee not perform any work related to the business venture on County time; (5) that the employee not use any County equipment or other property when performing work related to the establishment or conduct of the business venture, and (6) that the employee not refer to his County position in marketing the business, including his proposed website.

Discussion of letters from a County resident – Before the meeting, the Commission was provided with several new letters from a County resident complaining about actions taken by County officials and employees. The Commission determined that the new letters did not appear to allege any violations of the Ethics Ordinance. (The resident had previously submitted two letters to the Ethics Commission. The Commission found at its July 8, 2009, meeting that those letters also failed to allege any violation of the Ethics Ordinance.) The Commission decided that future letters would be shared with the Chairman of the Ethics Commission. The Commission decided to table the discussion of future responses to these letters to a later date.

Adjournment

MOTION: Mr. Bickel moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Foster seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

The Ethics Commission adjourned its meeting at 8:00 p.m.

/s/
Linda B. Thall, Senior Assistant County Attorney